

ON A WEED SPECIES OF RORIPPA. — The area of origin and proper identity of widespread weeds are often difficult to establish. This is particularly true when different names are used in different parts of the world for the same species. A case in point is that of *Rorippa indica* (L.) Hiern. We have seen specimens of the apetalous variety of this species collected from a number of places in the Western Hemisphere, especially in Brazil; in the West Indies (Jamaica and Puerto Rico) and in the United States from Louisiana and from near Portland, Oregon. Besides *R. indica*, the names most commonly used for this species on the specimens and in the books are *Rorippa heterophylla* (Blume) Williams and *Rorippa montana* (Wall.) Small, but specimens were found misidentified in such remote genera as *Sisymbrium* and *Cardamine*.

*Rorippa indica* is native in Eastern Asia and is present there in both petalous and apetalous infraspecific taxa. All of the evidence I have been able to assemble supports the position taken by Hochreutiner<sup>1</sup> that the plants of this weedy species can readily be accommodated in two varieties, var. *indica* and var. *apetala*. The original material of Linnaeus possesses petals and the plants of var. *indica* are slightly taller with shorter siliques than is characteristic of var. *apetala*. The American material should be referred to *R. indica* (L.) Hiern, var. *apetala* (DC) Hochr. Hiern<sup>2</sup> definitely transferred the epithet *indica* to *Rorippa*, thus making superfluous the same transfer made by Hochreutiner (*l.c.*). The transfer by Hiern was made on an unnumbered page following p. XXV under a heading, "additions and corrections". The place is sufficiently obscure to be easily overlooked, but the index does give *Rorippa indica* and refers to p. XXVI. *R. heterophylla* and *R. montana* appear to be straight synonyms of *R. indica*. The name *Nasturtium montanum* was given in Wallich's list without description. I have not attempted to determine the first place a description was supplied because that is irrelevant to the present

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<sup>1</sup>Hochreutiner, B. P. H. *Candollea* 2: 370-371. 1925.

<sup>2</sup>Hiern, W. P. *Cat. Welw. Afr. Pl.* pt. 1, following p. XXV. 1896.



consideration. Certainly Small's use of the name in the appendix to his Flora of Southeastern United States (Ed. 2) is not correct.

It is interesting that the apetalous type of *R. indica* is the one that has become the weed rather than the variety with petals. It is a safe assumption that var. *apetala* does not require insect pollination. It is most probably both self compatible and predominately autogamous. Thus, it undoubtedly possesses the appropriate breeding system to spread far outside of its native area. This conforms to expectations.

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